



BC Hydro, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Energy and Mines
Consultation Steering Committee

Site C Clean Energy Project

Framework for an Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan

Appendix 1: Stakeholder Meeting Summaries

March 2016

Framework for an Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan for the Site C Clean Energy Project

DATE: DECEMBER 2, 2015 TIME: 1:00PM TO 3:00PM LOCATION: HUDSON'S HOPE

ATTENDEES/AFFILIATION	<p>Mayor Gwen Johansson, Hudson's Hope Renee Ardill, Peace River Cattlemen's Association Lee Bowd, BC Peace River Grain Industry Development Council Mary Brereton Vicki Burt, BCIA Opal Gentles Pam Gunderson Rick Kantz, BC Peace River Grain Industry Development Council Blane Meek Colin Meek Ross Musgrove, North Peace Cattlemen's Association Sharla Pearce, BC Grain Producers Association Deborah Peck Ross Peck Robert (Garry) Pringle, North Peace Cattlemen's Association Willy Rath, BC Peace River Grain Industry Development Council Doug Summer Christopher Weder Steve Winnicky Travis Winnicky Julie Robinson, Ministry of Agriculture</p>
CONSULTATION STEERING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES	<p>Siobhan Jackson, BC Hydro Erin Harlos, BC Hydro James Thomas, BC Hydro Julie Chace, Ministry of Energy and Mines Leslie MacDonald, Ministry of Agriculture</p>
FACILITATOR	<p>Judy Kirk, Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd.</p>
MEETING RECORDER	<p>Erin Harlos/Siobhan Jackson</p>
KEY THEMES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants expressed an interest in refining the Agricultural Compensation Fund's geographic scope to be focused on the Peace River Valley, rather than the Peace Region, because the Peace River Valley is the area that will experience the greatest impact due to the Site C Project. • Participants asked that BC Hydro clarify the approach for engaging directly with affected landowners on topics including highway relocation, land acquisition, Statutory Right of Ways, and monitoring plan findings. • Participants were interested in establishing a regional working group to provide further input on the Agricultural Compensation Fund framework. • Participants stated that the Agricultural Compensation Fund should not be for use outside the Peace Region. 	
General	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ross Peck asked about the representatives on the Consultation Steering Committee. <i>Siobhan Jackson noted that the Consultation Steering Committee includes representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Energy and Mines and BC Hydro, along with regional advisors, Hon. Mike Bernier, MLA for Peace River South, and Pat Pimm, MLA for Peace River North.</i> • Colin Meek commented on the consultation process, and noted that feedback from the Peace Valley should be more heavily weighted than feedback from elsewhere in the Peace Region. • Mayor Gwen Johansson expressed concern regarding impacts on the horticultural sector, and commented that this sector should receive the most support and benefit from the fund. 	

Provincial Environmental Assessment Certificate – Conditions

- Participants (Ross Peck, Renee Ardill) asked about Provincial Environmental Assessment Certificate – Condition 31 and the timeline of the agriculture monitoring and follow-up program. *Siobhan Jackson noted that the final plans are due for submission at the end of 2015, and the drafts were available to the District of Hudson's Hope and the Peace River Regional District for comment for 30 days.*
- Ross Peck asked about the 10-year program monitoring period, which includes 5 years prior to operations and 5 years during operations. *Erin Harlos explained the 10-year period is to collect data before and after the reservoir is in place to further develop the baseline and assess changes.*
- Garry Pringle and Mayor Gwen Johansson asked about the geographical scope of the monitoring plans. *Siobhan Jackson noted that the monitoring plans will consider site-specific changes relative to each monitoring plan, ranging from 2 to 5 kilometres of the Site C reservoir.*
- Ross Peck expressed concern about the impact of greater moisture on hay at upper elevations, and whether this will be considered in the monitoring plans. *Siobhan Jackson noted that Environment Canada was involved in the process, and that these impacts are unlikely to be associated with the Site C Project.*
- Ross Peck asked about BC Hydro's protocol if adverse impacts arise that have not been addressed in the monitoring plans. *Siobhan Jackson noted that they have options to address these impacts, including the Agricultural Compensation Fund, to determine how to effectively execute mitigation programs.*
- Rick Kantz asked about Provincial Environmental Assessment Certification – Condition 30, and whether the draft framework will be posted publically. *Siobhan Jackson noted that BC Hydro will post the draft framework and provide 30 days to comment.*

Construction Mitigation Measures

- Deborah Peck asked about Site C's construction monitoring practices. *Siobhan Jackson noted that construction mitigation measures are included in the Site C Project's Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), and those include Environmental Protection Plans (EPP) developed by the contractors prior to construction. As well, BC Hydro has retained an independent environmental monitor that is involved in the entire EPP process and monitoring, and reports directly to the Province of BC.*
- Mayor Gwen Johansson asked about oversight of the independent environmental monitor. *Siobhan Jackson noted that the Environmental Assessment Office and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations are responsible for reviewing and approving the independent environmental monitors' reports. More information can be found on the Site C website Document Library (www.sitecproject.com), within the CEMP.*
- Renee Ardill asked about the Vegetation and Invasive Plan Management Plan, and expressed concern about weeds and thistles on BC Hydro's property in the region. *Siobhan Jackson noted that BC Hydro has been actively working to mitigate weeds in the Peace Valley. BC Hydro, in conjunction with local landowners and the Peace River Regional District, successfully eradicated knapweed at Site C's location prior to construction.*
- Garry Pringle asked if BC Hydro will have inspectors monitoring all aspects of work on the project. *Siobhan Jackson noted that there will be inspectors to audit and provide oversight for all aspects of work. These include professionals in quality, environment, engineering and more. The construction management team is in the field monitoring on an ongoing basis.*
- Ross Peck asked about their contact for individual construction monitoring concerns. *Siobhan Jackson noted that landowners with concerns should contact their direct properties representative contact at BC Hydro.*

Individual Farm Mitigation Plans

- Ross Peck expressed concern about development of mitigation plans without transparency, and requested an overriding framework for how these plans will be discussed and developed.
- Garry Pringle and Renee Ardill expressed individual property concerns, including fencing and wildlife issues. *Siobhan Jackson noted that a member of the Properties team will follow up directly with the participants regarding their concerns.*

Management of Surplus Agricultural Lands

- Travis Winnicky, Ross Peck and Deborah Peck asked about the resale of surplus agricultural land, the pricing and opportunity to purchase the land, and requested the development of a land management working group. *James Thomas and Siobhan Jackson noted that they will honour specific commitments already made in agreements, then look to combine land parcels with adjacent agricultural land holdings, and finally consult with the Agricultural Land Commission and adjacent landowners to add suitable land to the Agricultural Land Reserve.*
- Travis Winnicky commented that a surplus agricultural land parcel could be an opportunity for a new entrant into the farming industry.
- Christoph Weder, Blane Meek and Garry Pringle expressed that they did not believe BC Hydro will sell surplus lands back, as they will require it as a statutory right of way, citing current land purchases around the Williston reservoir and Beryl Prairie. *James Thomas offered to discuss further with the participants.*
- Vicki Burt asked about wildlife compensation lands, and the process regarding these land parcels. *Siobhan Jackson noted the mitigation requirements for the Project, citing The Land Conservancy of British Columbia.*
- Ross Peck and Deborah Peck asked about Agricultural Land Reserve exemptions, and requested a more transparent approach to ramifications on existing landowners. *Leslie MacDonald and James Thomas noted that BC Hydro will work with participants to assist in understanding the current exclusions, and implications on existing lands.*
- Christoph Weder asked about the land parcel located near the airport that was purchased to offset wetland. *Siobhan Jackson noted that improvements have been made to ensure maintenance and secure habitat, and offered to discuss further with the participant.*

Agricultural Compensation Fund

- Mayor Gwen Johansson asked when the fund will be available. *Siobhan Jackson noted that the fund will be accessible in mid-2017.*
- Ross Peck and Mary Brereton asked about the dollar value of the fund, and how BC Hydro decided on \$20 million. *Siobhan Jackson and Erin Harlos noted that the fund is in real dollars, not based on interest or growth. The \$20 million is based on the assessed value of lost future economic agricultural activity on lands that will be inundated by the Site C reservoir.*
- Mary Brereton commented that the \$20 million should be split into two funds, one for the Peace Valley and one for the Peace Region.
- Doug Summer suggested that 50% of the fund be available to the horticulture sector due to the opportunity for growth in the Peace Region.
- Colin Meek asked whether costs associated with this consultation meeting were deducted from the Agricultural Fund. *Siobhan Jackson noted that the funds for the consultation were not deducted from the Agricultural Fund.*
- Ross Peck commented that a small portion of the fund could be allocated to support initial application/project development costs.
- Lee Bowd commented that the fund should be unavailable for provincial use, and should only be available to the Peace Region.
- Vicki Burt commented that the fund should have a narrower scope and vision, and establish some end goals to ensure the \$20 million is disbursed appropriately.
- Mayor Gwen Johansson, Christoph Weder and Pam Gunderson commented that the fund should be focused in the Peace Valley to support and maintain the agricultural community that will be most impacted. Mayor Gwen Johansson commented that this fund should set a precedent for allocation to a more refined geographic scope.
- Mayor Gwen Johansson and Christoph Weder expressed concerns about the classification system for describing impacts on regional lands.

Agricultural Compensation Fund – Governance

- Christoph Weder asked whether administrative expenses will be deducted from the Fund. *Siobhan Jackson noted that administration will be financed from the Fund, similar to other programs run by BC Hydro.*
- Christoph Weder asked if BC Hydro will be involved in running and distributing the Fund. *Siobhan Jackson noted that BC Hydro is accountable for ensuring the Fund is properly set up with robust administration, but would hope to have the lightest touch possibly once established. BC Hydro is*

seeking clarify from the Environmental Assessment Office on what would be acceptable to meet the requirements of the condition.

- Christoph Weder and Renee Ardill asked about positions on the board, and how they would be funded. *Siobhan Jackson, Erin Harlos and Leslie MacDonald noted that they are seeking input from participants on allocation of funds to board positions, and that typically administrative positions are paid.*
- Rick Kantz commented that the adjudication committee should have the primary weight for final decisions, and that the board should only provide oversight.
- Vicki Burt and Ross Peck cited BC Hydro's Fish and Wildlife Compensation Plan, and expressed concerns about the board disregarding input from the adjudication committee. *Erin Harlos noted that they hope to take feedback from other funds and apply these to the Terms of Reference/Mandate for the Agricultural Compensation Fund.*
- Christoph Weder and Lee Bowd asked about the composition of the board, and how it will be formed. *Siobhan Jackson and Leslie MacDonald noted that they have not decided on a board structure, and would like to receive feedback from participants regarding the structure and mandate.*
- Renee Ardill, Deborah Peck and Lee Bowd commented that the board should include representation from various different agricultural groups in the region, and Peace Valley land owners groups.
- Ross Peck commented that the fund would be better received if it was perceived as being developed by agricultural sector groups, instead of political figures. Ross Peck, Deborah Peck, Doug Summer and Garry Pringle expressed the need for a working group to help consider input from consultation and provide a more democratic approach.

Additional Comments/Discussion

- Colin Meek asked about Highway 29 Relocation, and if BC Hydro was open to changing the alignment. *Siobhan Jackson noted that the final project design has been submitted and approved within the environmental assessment, and is based on input received during consultation from the public and local farmers.*
- Renee Ardill and Ross Peck expressed concern about the Highway 29 Relocation consultation process. *Siobhan Jackson noted that they assessed preliminary highway designs and comments received during consultation to determine the most feasible relocation option.*

Framework for an Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan for the Site C Clean Energy Project

DATE : JANUARY 7, 2016 TIME: 1:00PM TO 3:00PM

LOCATION: FORT ST. JOHN

ATTENDEES/AFFILIATION	<p>Mayor Lori Ackerman, Fort St. John Karen Gooding, PRRD Regional District, Director, Electoral Area B Renee Ardill, Peace River Cattlemen's Association Ted Burdge Joy Burdge Aron Collins, Peace River Cattlemen's Association Tobin Dirks, Peace Region Forage Seed Association Ken Forest, Peace Valley Environment Association Shaun Grant, South Peace Grain Cleaning Coop Board Member, South Peace Grain Cleaning Coop Dave Harris, North Peace Cattlemen's Association Blair Hill, Peace Region Forage Seed Association Rick Kantz, BC Grain Growers Association Shawn Loeren, NPCA Sam Mahood Ross Musgrove, Upper Cache Creek Cattleman's Association Sharla Pearce, BC Grain Producers Association Robert Pringle, North Peace Cattlemen's Association Les Shurtliff, Peace River Greenhouse Ltd. Dean Shurtliff, Peace River Greenhouse Ltd. Brad Sperling, Peace River Regional District Dan Stocking, Peace River Cattlemen's Association Franz Wenger, Grain Farmer Lori Vickers, Ministry of Agriculture Julie Robinson, Ministry of Agriculture</p>
CONSULTATION STEERING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES	<p>Siobhan Jackson, BC Hydro Erin Harlos, BC Hydro Judy Reynier, BC Hydro Julie Chace, Ministry of Energy and Mines Leslie MacDonald, Ministry of Agriculture</p>
REGIONAL ADVISOR	<p>MLA Pat Pimm, Peace River North</p>
FACILITATOR	<p>Judy Kirk, Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd.</p>
MEETING RECORDER	<p>Erin Harlos</p>
KEY THEMES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants stressed the importance of having regional administration of the Agricultural Compensation Fund, and regional decisions on funding awards. • Participants discussed various existing fund managers that may be able to play a role in the compensation fund going forward. • Participants expressed interest in BC Hydro transferring the full amount of the agricultural compensation fund of \$20 million as a lump sum to enable the fund administrator to accrue interest over time. • Some local agriculture producer groups expressed interest in the fund being distributed in larger amounts to have a greater impact • Some government representatives expressed interest in annual funding that would last in perpetuity for long term benefit. • Participants commented on potential project eligibility criteria for the fund, and in general expressed interest in maintaining a flexible framework to ensure the best projects are selected for funding with examples including agricultural infrastructure projects and low-interest loans. • Participants stated that the Agricultural Compensation Fund should not be for use outside the Peace Region. 	
General	

- Renee Ardill expressed concern about the general consultation process, and feedback being disregarded in previous project consultations.
- MLA Pat Pimm, Mayor Lori Ackerman, Les Shurtliff, Aron Collins and Dean Shurtliff discussed potential opportunities for co-generation with the agriculture and greenhouse gas industries. Franz Wenger and asked why the dam is considered a green project when it requires diesel/gas to build. *Siobhan Jackson and Julie Chace acknowledged the comment, provided a summary of the GHG analysis for the project, and noted that this topic was outside the scope of the agricultural stakeholder meeting.*

Construction Management Practices

- Les Shurtliff, commented about the Soil Management, Site Restoration and Re-vegetation Plan, and requested that BC Hydro use local seeds, seeding and native species from the area.
- Sam Mahood asked about contractors' Environmental Protection Plans (EPP), who accepts/reviews their submissions, and if their submissions will be submitted to local government. *Siobhan Jackson noted that contractors must submit EPPs to BC Hydro.*
- Brad Sperling commented that if local government had the EPPs, they could be more helpful at answering public questions and concerns. *Siobhan Jackson noted the EPPs are an extension of the Construction Environmental Management Plan, which is available to the public.*
- Les Shurtliff and Sam Mahood asked about construction monitoring practices, including who is responsible for overseeing contractors. *BC Hydro has retained an independent environmental monitor that reports to the Province of BC directly. As well, BC Hydro's construction management team is in the field monitoring every day.*
- Les Shurtliff shared experiences of other projects, and expressed concern about contractors taking shortcuts to reduce their costs. *Siobhan Jackson noted that the construction management team is onsite constantly monitoring to ensure compliance, and have the authority to stop work as required.*
- MLA Pat Pimm, Renee Ardill and Franz Wenger expressed concern over the Invasive Plant Management Plan, past weed management plans, and asked if BC Hydro is using certified weed-free products. *Siobhan Jackson noted that contractors are required to use local, native and weed-free seed.*
- Karen Gooding expressed concern about the timeline for construction monitoring and ability to stop work. *Siobhan Jackson noted that the construction management team is onsite every day, and have the ability to stop work immediately.*

Individual Farm Mitigation Plans

- MLA Pat Pimm asked about the source of funds for individual farm mitigation plans. *Judy Reynier noted that property acquisition costs are not deducted from the \$20 million Agriculture Compensation Fund, as they are two separate funds.*

Management of Surplus Agricultural Land

- Sam Mahood asked about weed management plans for surplus agricultural lands. *Judy Reynier noted that BC Hydro is responsible for invasive plant management on its property, including lands that may become surplus in the future.*
- Dean Shurtliff asked if BC Hydro will change the Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR). *Siobhan Jackson noted that they have only sought Agriculture Land Reserve lands directly required for the project, and commit to consulting with the Agriculture Land Commission to determine if appropriate surplus lands can be added to the ALR.*
- Dean Shurtliff asked about the process regarding surplus agricultural land parcels. *Siobhan Jackson noted that they will honour specific commitments already made in agreements, look to combine land parcels with adjacent agricultural land holdings, and consult with the Agricultural Land Commission and adjacent landowners to add suitable land to the Agricultural Land Reserve.*
- Brad Sperling asked if surplus agricultural lands fall into statutory right of way. *Judy Reynier noted that some surplus land will be free of statutory rights of way and some may not.*

Agricultural Compensation Fund

- Karen Gooding expressed interest in concentrating the geographic scope of the fund to be focused on Peace Valley. *Pat Pimm, MLA for Peace River North reiterated unanimous agreement from Ministers and the Premier that the fund is for the Peace Region.*
- Karen Gooding, Brad Sperling and Renee Ardill expressed interest in setting up the Agricultural Compensation Fund in perpetuity, and using the interest to cover administration costs.
- Dean Shurtliff, Dave Harris, Rick Kantz and Shaun Grant expressed interest in allocating the \$20 million as a lump sum, to avoid long-term administration costs, and to create a greater impact for agriculture in the province.

- Rick Kantz expressed interest in using a regional organization as the vehicle to deliver the fund.
- Ken Forest asked about eligibility for the fund, and why educational institutions are included. *Leslie MacDonald noted that an educational institution may have expertise, or the ability to respond to specific project requirements.*
- Karen Gooding asked if applications would need to comply with the *Clean Energy Act*. *Siobhan Jackson noted that any proposed applications would need to comply with all existing Provincial legislation.*
- Numerous participants, including Mayor Lori Ackerman, Shaun Grant, Dean Shurtliff and Tobin Dirks commented that eligibility for the fund should remain flexible, be based on specific merits of individual projects, and remain open to various opportunities including interest free loans, agricultural infrastructure, and some projects may need support and connections but not always money.
- Rick Kantz asked whether money from the compensation fund could be used to receive matching money from the government. *Siobhan Jackson commented that the fund would not be expected to be government money. Siobhan Jackson noted that it is consulting with the Environmental Assessment Office to clarify the specifics of the fund.*
- Les Shurtliff and Renee Ardill asked about implementation of the agricultural fund, including timeline. *Siobhan Jackson noted that the final plan for the compensation fund is due in July 2017.*
- Mayor Lori Ackerman asked if there will be additional compensation for construction impacts prior to July 2017, when the fund becomes available. *Siobhan Jackson noted that no impacts on agriculture are expected before this time, but if there were, they could be addressed through individual farm mitigation plans.*
- MLA Pat Pimm asked if the \$20 million will be allocated at one time, or in segments. *Siobhan Jackson noted that BC Hydro needs to consult with the Environmental Assessment Office to better understand BC Hydro's responsibility and accountability for fund delivery.*
- Some participants, including Franz Wenger and Shaun Grant expressed concern that \$20 million will not be enough money to mitigate agricultural impacts to the region from the Site C project.

Agricultural Compensation Fund - Governance

- Les Shurtliff asked for an estimate of the fund's allocation towards administration costs. *Leslie MacDonald noted that previous funds have generally used 10-15% of the fund's total value for administration costs, however this varies by fund amount and structure.*
- Mayor Lori Ackerman, Renee Ardill, Brad Sperling, Robert Pringle, Dave Harris and Ross Musgrove expressed interest in reducing the administration costs by developing a regional advisory committee, with representatives from each of the regional agriculture groups, and Mayor Lori Ackerman cited a similar committee established for the Northern Development Initiatives Trust.
- Les Shurtliff and Dean Shurtliff expressed interest in having the Peace River Regional District, MLA Pat Pimm and Mayor of Fort St. John, Lori Ackerman, administer the fund.
- Numerous participants, including Les Shurtliff, Dave Harris and Sam Mahood commented that management of the fund, including administration and governance, should remain regional.
- Ken Forest commented that a number of interests should join together to jointly oversee the fund, instead of having one single producer group in charge of administration.
- Mayor Lori Ackerman and Brad Sperling cited the Northern Development Initiatives Trust fund, and requested that a similar process be used, including local administration, framework, process and decisions.

Additional Comments/Discussion

- Tobin Dirks and Blair Hill expressed a need for infrastructure to promote local labour and benefit a multitude of producers across all sectors.
- Participants reiterated that eligibility should remain flexible, the governing committee should represent local agriculture groups and funded projects should benefit the whole agriculture community.
- Participants reiterated that the fund should remain in the region, and be administered and governed by the region.
- *Leslie MacDonald noted that the Ministry of Agriculture would be interested in completing short term feasibility studies to help identify potential opportunities.*

Framework for an Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan for the Site C Clean Energy Project

DATE: JANUARY 12, 2016 TIME: 1:00PM TO 3:00PM

LOCATION: DAWSON CREEK

ATTENDEES/AFFILIATION	<p>Bill Bentley, Peace River Cattlemen's Association Lary Fossum, BC South Peace River Stockmen's Association Talon Gauthier, BC Forage Seed Producers Leonard Hiebert, Peace Agricultural Advisory Committee Blair Hill, Peace Region Forage Seed Association Rick Kantz, Grain Industry Development Council/BC Grain Growers Association Mike McConnell, Peace River Cattlemen's Association Blane Meek, Peace Valley Landowner's Association Ross Musgrove, Upper Cache Creek Cattleman's Association Connie Patterson, BC Cattlemen Development Council Sharla Pearce, BCGP Steve Rainey, BC South Peace River Stockmen's Association Troy Schweitzer, BC South Peace River Stockmen's Association Art Seidl, Peace River Cattlemen's Association Hugh Shurtliff, Peace River Greenhouse Ltd. Les Shurtliff, Peace River Greenhouse Ltd. Barry Tompkins Bill Wilson, Peace River Forage Association of BC Julie Robinson, Ministry of Agriculture Lori Vickers, Ministry of Agriculture Cindy Fisher, Executive Assistant to Minister Mike Bernier</p>
CONSULTATION STEERING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES	<p>Siobhan Jackson, BC Hydro Erin Harlos, BC Hydro Julie Chace, Ministry of Energy and Mines Leslie MacDonald, Ministry of Agriculture</p>
REGIONAL ADVISORS	<p>Minister Mike Bernier, Peace River South MLA Pat Pimm, Peace River North</p>
FACILITATOR	<p>Judy Kirk, Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd.</p>
MEETING RECORDER	<p>Erin Harlos, BC Hydro</p>
KEY THEMES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants stated that the Agricultural Compensation Fund should be regionally managed, and that local agricultural producers should be the final decision makers. • Participants expressed interest in creating an executive board to govern the fund, with 1/3 livestock industry representatives, 1/3 crop producers and 1/3 various other minor commodities groups including horticulture. • Participants requested that the Fund be allocated in a lump sum endowment of \$20 million. • Participants expressed interest in retaining flexibility of eligibility and the criteria for applications, to avoid exclusion of potentially beneficial projects. Participants considered fund eligibility for on-farm investments, multiple-year funding, and interest-free or low interest loans. • Participants identified the need to support new, young entrants into agriculture. • Participants stated that the Agricultural Compensation Fund should not be for use outside the Peace Region. 	
General	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Siedl expressed interest in viewing the Consultation Summary and Framework report. • Les Shurtliff asked about the Growing Forward Program, and how much capital was allocated to the North. <i>Leslie MacDonald noted that the Growing Forward Program is three years into the five-year program, and has not funded many capital projects.</i> 	

Construction Management Practices

- Mike McConnell expressed concern about the wording of the Vegetation and Invasive Plant Management Plan, including parameters for accountability.
- Talon Gauthier and MLA Pat Pimm asked about BC Hydro's seed sourcing plan. *Siobhan Jackson noted that contractors are required to use local, native and weed-free seed.*

Individual Farm Mitigation Plans

- Mike McConnell asked about the source of funds for individual farm mitigation plans. *Siobhan Jackson noted that the individual farm mitigation plan expenditures, including property acquisition costs are not deducted from the \$20 million Agriculture Compensation Fund; there are two separate and distinct budgets.*
- Barry Tompkins asked about the process for landowners that previously sold land to BC Hydro, but are now leasing back the land. *Siobhan Jackson responded that landowners and lease holders will be contacted on an individual basis.*
- Art Seidl asked about the geographic scope of Site C's impact, including how many acres will be affected. *Siobhan Jackson noted that approximately 6,500 hectares will be impacted in total, and that additional information can be found in the agricultural summary on the Site C website (www.sitecproject.com).*
- Mike McConnell expressed concern regarding Individual Farm Mitigation Plans, stating that the land being flooded is irreplaceable, and there will be immeasurable losses in horticultural production.

Management of Surplus Agricultural Lands

- MLA Pat Pimm and Barry Tompkins discussed opportunities for landowners that sold to BC Hydro, but are now leasing back the land. *Siobhan Jackson noted that in some cases, the agreement will indicate in the purchase terms that surplus lands will be offered for sale to the original owner first.*
- Blane Meek and Art Seidl asked about impact lines, and impacts to their property. *Siobhan Jackson noted that the most recent study on impact lines will guide acquisition requirements and statutory right of way. Participants can follow up directly with BC Hydro concerning their individual property concerns.*
- Minister Mike Bernier expressed interest in ensuring appropriate surplus lands are used for agriculture.
- Minister Mike Bernier and Barry Tompkins asked about fragmented parcels of surplus land. *Siobhan Jackson noted that where appropriate, BC Hydro would look for opportunities to connect surplus lands to adjacent land holdings.*

Agricultural Compensation Fund

- Mike McConnell commented on a letter written by Minister Norm Letnick confirming that the compensation fund would only be spent in the Peace Region, and asked for the letter to be made public. *Siobhan Jackson noted that this consultation has proposed that the Fund be focused on the Peace Region and is seeking participants' feedback on geographic scope. The content regarding geographic scope of the Fund within the guide is directly from the Environmental Assessment Certificate Condition 30.*
- *MLA Pat Pimm commented that the Premier, Ministers and caucus are all in support of the funds being used exclusively in the Peace Region.*
- Les Shurtliff expressed interest in allocating funds to a non-profit organization that could clean, sort and package local agriculture and sell it locally, to improve the local economy by reducing food costs and allowing food from the Peace Region to be inspected and marketed for public consumption.
- Bill Wilson expressed concern about lost opportunities to support good projects, if the fund is used in perpetuity.
- Mike McConnell, Art Seidl and Rick Kantz commented on eligibility for the fund, and ensuring flexibility and potential for multi-year funding and on-farm capital investments, to ensure that potentially beneficial projects are not excluded.
- Art Seidl expressed interest in cost sharing, to ensure projects have money contributed to increase their commitment level.
- Les Shurtliff commented that the horticultural industry will endure the greatest impacts from the dam, and therefore should benefit from the Fund.
- Les Shurtliff asked if there was more money available for the funds. *Siobhan Jackson noted that \$20 million is the allocated amount, and is based on agricultural land impact and potential productivity*

over 100 years.

- Mike McConnell commented that the majority of investment should be to farming/producing.
- Hugh Shurtliff expressed interest in developing programs to help create local jobs in the agriculture industry for young people, and other participants agreed with need for new entrants into agriculture in the region.
- Rick Kantz, Connie Patterson and Blane Meek commented that the \$20 million compensation fund is not enough to cover impacts from the dam that will last generations.
- Steve Rainey expressed concern about the potential impacts and changes to the region due to the Site C Dam, and cited the Bennett Dam and its impact on Tumbler Ridge.
- Leonard Hiebert asked how the terms of reference will be developed for the fund. *Siobhan Jackson noted that they will be developed from feedback provided during consultation.*

Agricultural Compensation Fund - Governance

- Steve Rainey, Mike McConnell, Les Shurtliff and Bill Wilson expressed interest in allocating the fund as a \$20 million endowment, a lump sum managed by a local working group, and have the fund continue in perpetuity.
- Art Seidl and Leonard Hiebert expressed concern that the fund could be dispersed too quickly, and expressed interest in the compensation fund lasting long-term.
- Minister Mike Bernier and Connie Patterson commented on the Northern Development Initiatives Trust, noting that it is well managed, has been success in allocating grants exclusively from interest, and should be used as a model for the agricultural compensation fund framework.
- Numerous participants, including Steve Rainey, Leonard Hiebert, Connie Patterson, Larry Fossum and Ross Musgrove commented on governance, and expressed interest in developing an executive board with representation from different local producer groups to administer the fund.
- Steve Rainey and Talon Gauthier expressed interest in creating an adjudication committee to advise the board.
- Numerous participants, including Steve Rainey, Mike McConnell, Sharla Pearce, Art Siedl, Larry Fossum, Rick Kantz, Connie Patterson, Bill Wilson and MLA Pat Pimm, expressed interest in creating an executive board that would have representation from crop producers, the livestock (cattle) industry and various minor commodities groups including horticulture, to ensure fairness and transparency.
- Talon Gauthier presented the Forage Seed association's support for an endowment approach with consideration of interest free or low interest loans that would be paid back into the fund, and with multiple year funding available.
- Rick Kantz expressed concern about governance, and ensuring that BC Hydro and the Ministry of Agriculture be involved in administering the fund as little as possible.
- Rick Kantz, Steve Rainey and Bill Wilson discussed auditing and annual reporting requirements for projects once they have been funded, and included interest in maintaining flexibility to increase amounts, or provide annual funding.
- Troy Schweitzer, Steve Rainey, Les Shurtliff and Larry Fossum expressed concern about using compensation fund money for administration costs.

Framework for an Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan for the Site C Clean Energy Project

DATE: JANUARY 13, 2016 TIME: 1:00PM TO 3:00PM LOCATION: CHETWYND

ATTENDEES/AFFILIATION	Dan Rose, PRRD Regional District, Director, Electoral Area E Sandra Burton, Peace River Forage Association Dale Frederickson, BC South Peace River Stockmen's Association Anja Hutgens, Penalty Ranch Charlie Lasser, Rancher, Organic Association Annie Madden, Rancher from Jackfish Lake Dennis Madden, Rancher from Jackfish Lake Judy Madden, BC Southpeace Cattleman Mike McConnell, Peace River Cattlemen's Association Ross Musgrove, Upper Cache Creek Cattleman's Association Steve Rainey, BC South Peace River Stockmen's Association John Stokmans, Saulteau First Nations Julie Robinson, Ministry of Agriculture Lori Vickers, Ministry of Agriculture
CONSULTATION STEERING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES	Siobhan Jackson, BC Hydro Erin Harlos, BC Hydro Julie Chace, Ministry of Energy and Mines Leslie MacDonald, Ministry of Agriculture
REGIONAL ADVISOR	MLA Pat Pimm, Peace River North
FACILITATOR	Judy Kirk, Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd.
MEETING RECORDER	Erin Harlos, BCH
KEY THEMES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants expressed an interest in creating a new cross-producer society to manage/disburse the fund, and not an adaptation of an existing group or fund manager, to ensure all interested stakeholders are represented. Participants commented on fund governance, articulating the need for an executive board comprised of local agricultural producers, with positions for smaller groups and new entrants. Participants commented that the executive board should have a clear terms of reference to ensure fairness, and that the terms of reference should be reviewed every two to five years. Participants expressed interest in the compensation fund of \$20 million being paid out in a lump sum from BC Hydro, and managed as an endowment, with flexibility in annual payments. Participants commented on criteria and eligibility, expressing interest in ensuring individual producers have ways of participating in the fund – both on advisory board and as applicants. Participants proposed that 30 per cent of each year's funding be available for individual projects. Participants expressed the need for new, young entrants into the farming industry and a need for educational agriculture programming. Participants stated that the Agricultural Compensation Fund should not be for use outside the Peace Region. 	
General	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants requested additional opportunities to provide input on the compensation fund. Charlie Lasser expressed concern about overall climate change due to the Site C dam. 	
Provincial Environmental Assessment Certificate – Conditions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dale Frederickson asked about Condition 31 and the geographic scope of the monitoring plans, including whether there will be an increased wildlife impact closer to the dam. <i>Siobhan Jackson noted that Condition 31 of the Provincial Environmental Assessment Certificate requires BC Hydro to implement a 10-year monitoring program to determine if the Site C Reservoir will result in site-specific changes that will affect local agricultural operations. These monitoring findings will be used to inform direct mitigation and/or compensation.</i> 	

Construction Management Practices

- Judy Madden expressed concern about the wording in the section on the Vegetation and Invasive Plant Management Plan.
- Charlie Lasser commented on the Traffic Management Plans and the potential widening of Jackfish Lake Road, and its impact to the surrounding agriculture.
- Annie Madden and Dennis Madden commented on traffic management issues along Jackfish Lake Road.

Individual Farm Mitigation Plans

- Dan Rose asked about the process for dispute resolution regarding individual farm mitigation plans. *Siobhan Jackson noted that BC Hydro is in the process of developing an acquisition process guide, and will follow up directly with the participant regarding the question.*
- Steve Rainey, MLA Pat Pimm and Charlie Lasser expressed concern about land owner and tenure holder questions not being addressed, as it impacts their agricultural operations. *Siobhan Jackson noted that landowners and tenure holders should follow up directly with their Properties contact, and BC Hydro will be releasing an acquisition process guide in the near term.*

Management of Surplus Agricultural Lands

- Judy Madden commented on surplus lands, and expressed interest in giving priority to former landowners, and then to adjacent landowners, to ensure the land is maintained for local agricultural purposes.
- Mike McConnell asked about loss of portions of a farmer's land, and expressed interest in BC Hydro buying the entire parcel if they are unable to operate. *Siobhan Jackson noted that during individual negotiations with landowners those concerns would be discussed.*
- Ross Musgrove asked about the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), and how BC Hydro decides if lands stays in the ALR. *Siobhan Jackson noted that they do not have the authority to remove lands from the ALR. There may be surplus lands that are not currently in the ALR, which BC Hydro would seek to add to the ALR based on consultation with the Agricultural Land Commission and landowners*
- Ross Musgrove asked how BC Hydro acquired the agricultural land from the ALR. *Siobhan Jackson noted that the provincial government executed an exclusion of land.*

Agricultural Compensation Fund

- *MLA Pat Pimm stated his support for narrowing the geographic scope of the Agricultural Compensation Fund to exclusively remain in the Peace Region.*
- Judy Madden and Dale Frederickson asked about BC Hydro seeking feedback from outside the Peace Region. *Siobhan Jackson noted that they have not held meetings outside the region, and in the online discussion guide and feedback form, the form requests that participants identify what region they are from so that the source of input is clear.*
- Judy Madden and Dale Frederickson expressed concern about the wording in the discussion guide, relating to funding going outside the region. *Siobhan Jackson noted that the wording is from the Environmental Assessment Certificate, and the Committee understands, and has recommended, that the fund remain in the Peace Region.*
- Dan Rose and MLA Pat Pimm expressed interest in mirroring money management practices of the Columbia Basin Trust and the Northern Development Initiatives Trust, to ensure long term distribution of the fund.
- Numerous participants, including Judy Madden, Mike McConnell and Steve Rainey, expressed interest in the Agricultural Compensation Fund being paid out as a lump sum from BC Hydro, and managed locally as an endowment.
- John Stokmans and Steve Rainey discussed setting up the fund in perpetuity, and what the rate of return would be for this approach.
- Charlie Lasser asked about the \$20 million fund. *Siobhan Jackson noted that the \$20 million will be available once the final plan is issued, and that directly impacted landowners will be compensated from a separate fund.*
- Judy Madden, Dan Rose and Charlie Lasser commented on the wording of the compensation fund's vision, and requested the addition of 'enhancing and maintaining agriculture', including wildlife displacement, crop drying and wildlife predation.
- Dan Rose and Judy Madden expressed interest in ensuring a simple and straightforward application process. *Pat Pimm noted that the application process can be complicated due to federal requirements.*

- John Stokmans expressed interest in setting aside a portion of the fund to mitigate potential future impacts that may arise, and that the fund should exclusively be used in the Peace Region, and managed locally.
- Judy Madden and Sandra Burton expressed concern about the proposed eligibility criteria, and that it should be limited to agriculture exclusively. Furthermore, eligibility for educational institutions should include a requirement that the research be directly linked to benefits for the Peace Region.
- Mike McConnell and Judy Madden commented on eligibility for individuals, and that individual projects should only be 50% funded.
- MLA Pat Pimm, Dan Rose and Steve Rainey expressed interest in maintaining eligibility for individual projects, to support local on-the-ground projects that aren't associated with any societies, and suggested allocation 30% of each year's funding to individual projects.
- Dan Rose commented that individual projects may have increased administration costs in comparison to societies who are governed.

Agricultural Compensation Fund – Governance

- Mike McConnell and Judy Madden expressed concern regarding the draft governance structure included in the Discussion Guide, and proposed an alternate governing framework, which includes creation of a non-profit society to administer the fund with an executive board representing various groups from the region. Additionally, the proposed structure would include an advisory committee to oversee the review of applications and to make recommendations to the primary executive board.
- Dan Rose discussed the creation of a primary decision-making group and an administration group, to vet applications to ensure they meet criteria.
- Sandra Burton expressed interest in maintaining flexibility for eligibility, and that the framework should be reviewed every five years.
- Steve Rainey, Judy Madden and Dan Rose expressed interest in creating an executive board made up of agricultural producers to make decisions regarding the Fund, ensuring local, non-government and non-political administration of the Fund.
- Dan Rose expressed interest in providing input on the terms of reference, to ensure all forms of agriculture are represented, including those that are not part of existing producers groups, and that the PRRD does not wish to be involved with the distribution of the money.
- Judy Madden asked about BC Hydro's involvement in oversight. *Siobhan Jackson noted that they are consulting with the Environment Assessment Office to determine their involvement requirements.*
- *Siobhan Jackson requested feedback regarding the level of due diligence that participants would expect of the producer decision-making group, and how BC Hydro can ensure the producer board will follow a fair and transparent process.*
- *Leslie MacDonald asked for feedback on the possibility of creating a role for an administrator, to act as a conduit, bring forward applications and respond to questions.* Dan Rose expressed concern regarding duplication in this proposed role, and cited the Northern Development Initiatives Trust board that meets quarterly, reviews applications and makes decisions.
- *Leslie MacDonald asked attendees about the proposed electoral process for executive board members, and whether attendees expected the roles to be compensated or voluntary positions.*
- Judy Madden expressed interest in a nomination process by producer groups for executive board member positions, and that those positions would warrant travel and per diems.
- Dale Frederickson commented on the creation of an executive board, and expressed interest in smaller sectors being represented through the Peace River Regional District.

Additional Comments/Discussion

- Dale Frederickson, Steve Rainey, MLA Pat Pimm, and Charlie Lasser expressed the need for new, young entrants into the farming industry, and commented that there is a lack of opportunities for youth in agriculture, citing a need for programs that bring agriculture into the classrooms and coordinating with programs such as Northern Opportunities.
- Anja Hutgens expressed interest in the Farmer's Advocate in Dawson Creek remaining a resource for all farmers in the region.